

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PK, US

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF FORD-AZIZ AHMED MEETING

1. PAKISTAN PRESS GAVE PROMINENT FRONT PAGE COVERAGE TO OCTOBER 9 MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AZIZ AHMED. ACCOUNTS STRESSED PRESIDENT FORD'S REAFFIRMATION OF SUPPORT FOR PAKISTAN'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. PRESS ACCOUNTS WERE DRAWN PRIMARILY FROM WHITE HOUSE RELEASE ON MEETING WHICH MOFH PAPERS CARRIED IN TOTO. NEWS OF MEETING ALSO COVERED ON TV AND RADIO.

2. THE ISSUE OF US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN ALSO DREW SOME COVERAGE. INDEPENDENT DAWN AND GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PAKISTAN TIMES, IN IDENTICAL ARTICLES ATTRIBUTED TO REUTERS AND APP, REPORT THAT AZIZ IS BELIEVED TO HAVE RAISED QUESTION OF SUPPLY OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN. ARTICLES NOTE THAT PAKISTAN HAS MADE NO PURCHASES SINCE ARMS EMBARGO LIFTED FOLLOWING BHUTTO'S TRIP TO US EARLIER THIS YEAR. ACCORDING TO "INFORMAL SOURCES," ITEMS PAKISTAN SEEKS ARE ESSENTIALLY DEFENSIVE OR REPLACEMENTS FOR WORN-OUT EQUIPMENT.

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3. EDITORIAL COVERAGE OF MEETING WAS CONFINED TO THE

VERNACULAR PRESS. NAWA-I-WAGT TOOK FAMILIAR LINE THAT WHILE PAKISTAN NEEDS AMERICA'S FRIENDSHIP AND ASSISTANCE, THE NATION MUST BECOME MORE SELF-RELIANT, RATHER THAN BANKING ON AMERICA'S GOOD INTENTIONS. PAPER REMINDS ITS READERS OF ROLE US PLAYED IN SINO-INDIAN WAR AND 1971 BENGAL CRISIS AND GOES ON TO SAY THAT OTHER MUSLIM ALLIES OF US BESIDES PAKISTAN HAVE SUFFERED BECAUSE OF OUR INDIFFERENCE. TAMEER, URGING FORD ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE CONCRETE STEPS TO ENSURE PAK INDEPENDENCE, SAYS THAT INDEPENDENCE HELPS FULFILL US SECURITY NEEDS. JANG, CLAIMS LIFTING OF ARMS EMBARGO HAS HEIGHTENED PAK EXPECTATIONS AND SAYS COUNTRY WILL JUDGE US SINCERITY BY WHAT IT DOES TO STRENGTHEN PAKISTAN'S DEFENSES.

BYROADE

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